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11 September 1986

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director for Intelligence *[Signature]*

FROM: Douglas J. MacEachin
Director of Soviet Analysis

SUBJECT: SOVA Efforts Targeted at the Soviet Information Revolution

REFERENCES: A. Memo from D/SOVA, Same Subject, dtd 12 August 1986
B. DCI memo to D/SOVA, Same Subject, dtd 21 August 1986

1. Action Requested. I am forwarding to you a draft conference prospectus (Attachment 1) and a list of prospective attendees (Attachment 2). We would like your comments on the prospectus, and your views on the candidate participants. Please delete individuals you do not wish to attend, and add any desirable candidates that we omitted. We will, of course, have to anticipate a certain number of rejections. We also would like to know, to the extent you can indicate now, your own plans for participation in the conference. (C)

2. Background. As I indicated to you in my 12 August memo, our conference will address likely Soviet strategies for meeting the challenge of the information revolution, and brainstorm potential opportunities for US policy and active measures. We have organized the conference into four sessions, the first three would be designed to establish the base for the final one--potential US policy and active measures options--which is the principal purpose of the conference. (C)

3. the Chairman of your Military-Economic Advisory Panel, has agreed to chair the conference. He has reviewed the conference prospectus and list of attendees. Following your review of attendees, we will issue the invitations. will contact candidates telephonically, and draft a formal letter of invitation for your signature. We plan to limit the conference to about 15 non-CIA experts and 10-20 CIA attendees. (C)

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4. The conference is scheduled for 12 November (evening) and 13 November at Airlie House. Invited non-Agency guests and a few senior Agency officials can be accommodated at the facility. Others will travel from home or use local motel accommodations.

Douglas J. MacEachin

Attachments:

1. Conference Prospectus
2. Candidate Non-CIA Attendees

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Attachment 1

Conference ProspectusGorbachev Confronts the Information Revolution:
Pluses and Minuses, and the Implications for U.S. PolicyBackground

The rapid development and widespread application of information technologies have potentially far reaching impact on the Soviet economy and society. By "information technologies" we mean the complex of microelectronic, electro-optic, computer, and telecommunications equipment and systems and associated software, that enables the rapid collection, storage, manipulation, and transmission of data. (C NF)

In the West these technologies are fueling growth in economic productivity, and increasing the ability of citizens to acquire, manipulate, and convey information. Scientists and engineers have easy access to computational power, problem solving algorithms and practical analytical models. High quality composing and printing capabilities are available at modest cost. These advances are supporting widespread industrial automation of design and production processes, and the decentralization of commercial and manufacturing activity. At the same time information technologies also offer some opportunities for social control by increasing the ability of governmental, law enforcement, and even commercial organizations to monitor individual activity. (U)

From the standpoint of the Soviet regime, embracing the information revolution offers major advantages with regard to economic modernization. Yet, there is also a major downside to the information revolution because the proliferation of new technologies threatens the regime's ability to maintain

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its traditional monopoly on information flow--which is a major instrument of political control. (U)

Gorbachev has publicly embraced the information revolution, making the development of the supporting technologies key elements of his industrial modernization program. He has focused on productivity improvements as the central goal of the program, and has launched a massive computer literacy effort to prepare the Soviet citizen to assimilate and use the new systems. At the same time, some Soviets have questioned the extent to which the information revolution will be an economic panacea, and Soviet leaders have displayed keen concern to block and counter information coming into the country from outside (e.g. through Western radio broadcasting, smuggling of video cassettes) and circulating underground within the USSR itself. (C NF)

The Objective

We want to examine the consequences of the information revolution for the Soviet Union, and explore the implications for US policy. More specifically, the conference should address the following questions:

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